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**“Novás Calvo and Hemingway”**

Transatlantic Studies assumes a dialogue, a voice or exchange across the Atlantic, across a space of oceanic travel. Those of us who read transatlantically in the Iberian disciplines share the belief that what happened in the Western and Southern Atlantic was central to social, cultural, political and economic life in nineteenth-century Spain. Such a reading departs from nationist histories and recognizes the transformations and multidirectional influences that shape local and global realities.

In this paper I analyze *El Negrero* (1933) and compare its academic treatment with that of *The Old Man and the Sea* (1952), moving from the transatlantic crossings of the authors’ biographies, to the novels’ representation of the seas as a force of nature in contrast to human ingenuity, to an analysis of the contrasts between transnational Americanism and Iberian and Latin American Transatlantic Studies.

In the early twentieth century, two very different but contemporary writers, Ernest Hemingway and Lino Novás Calvo, highlighted transatlantic crossings in their works. The bilingual Hemingway, who had lived in Cuba, France and Spain far longer than in his native United States, narrates the oceanic sources of human transversal of the Atlantic in *The Old Man and the Sea* as well as numerous earlier essays. The protagonist of this novel, Santiago, is a Canary Islander who pertains neither wholly to Spain or Africa and, representative of a view of human migrations that downplays scientific ingenuity, remains disconnected from the natural forces that propel him and the marlin. Hemingway underscores nature as the source of transatlantic exchanges. In contrast, the title character of Novás Calvo’s *El negrero* has a parallel response to the role of nature in his transatlantic travels. However, rather than marveling at nature, the transnational Pedro Blanco harnesses his knowledge of the seas to carry out unnatural acts.

Transnational Americanists regularly read Hemingway in his Cuban context; Cubans read Hemingway in a Cuban context. Through a comparison of Novás Calvo and Hemingway, I propose to examine why a similarly transnational treatment of Novás Calvo and other writers like him has been challenging for practitioners of Iberian and Latin American Transatlantic Studies.